

149th Fighter Squadron celebrates its 71st year

The 149th Fighter Squadron, the oldest unit assigned to the Virginia Air National Guard's 192nd Fighter Wing, celebrated its 71st year as a fighter squadron June 21, 2018, at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia. The squadron was federally recognized June 21, 1947. The 149th FS is an F-22A Raptor air dominance and T-38 Talon adversary air squadron.

"What makes the 149th great is the fact that since there is not a lot of us, we tend to stick together like a family," said Airman 1st Class Dagejah Hampton, 149th FS aviation resource manager. The 149th FS has approximately 50 members, many of whom are pilots. Having served two years in the unit, Hampton is currently the youngest member of the 149th FS.

"The 149th is the national repository of fifth-generation air dominance experience and expertise mixed with a diverse background of civilian occupational lineage and national/international geopolitical influence," said Lt. Col. "Scrappy," 149th FS chief of safety and F-22A instructor/evaluator pilot. He has served more than 26 years and joined the VaANG in October 2002, making him the longest serving member of the 149th FS.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2018/06/23/11639/>



Lt. Col. "Scrappy," 149th Fighter Squadron chief of safety and F-22A instructor/evaluator pilot, is the oldest member of the 149th Fighter Squadron. He has flown over 1,000 hours in the F-22A Raptor.

Virginia National Guard News Headlines

Flora to succeed Mercer as Assistant Adjutant General – Army

Brig. Gen. Lapthe C. Flora will succeed Brig. Gen. Walter L. Mercer as the Virginia National Guard Assistant Adjutant General – Army, according to an announcement made June 18, 2018, by Maj. Gen. Timothy P. Williams, the Adjutant General of Virginia.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2018/06/27/11622/>

Hubbard takes command of 183rd RTI

Col. Todd Hubbard took command of the 183rd Regiment, Regional Training Institute from Col. James A. Zollar June 24, 2018, in a traditional change of command ceremony held at Fort Pickett, Virginia.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2018/06/26/11613/>

192nd Fighter Wing welcomes new wing command chief

Command Chief Master Sgt. Michael Bouley, outgoing 192nd Fighter Wing command chief, welcomed Chief Master Sgt. Christopher L. Amburn, with his last challenge coin June 23, 2018, at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2018/06/27/11642/>

Governor signs DMV drivers license veteran indicator bill

Governor Ralph Northam ceremonially signed House Bill 737 June 26, 2018, in Richmond, Virginia, authorizing the DMV to issue driver's licenses and identification cards displaying an indicator signifying that the holder is a veteran.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2018/06/26/11619/>

Did You Know?

Tips for Fireworks Safety

To help celebrate safely this Fourth of July, the Consumer Product Safety Commission and the National Council on Fireworks Safety offer the following safety tips: Always read and follow label directions, have an adult present, buy from reliable sellers, use outdoors only., always have water handy, never experiment or make your own fireworks, light only one firework at a time, never give fireworks to small children, dispose of fireworks properly by soaking them in water and then disposing of them in your trashcan, never throw or point fireworks at other people and never carry fireworks in your pocket.

For more information, visit <https://go.usa.gov/xUCtq>.

Soldiers, Airmen awarded for marksmanship excellence

Sixty-four Virginia National Guard Soldiers and Airmen participated in this year's Adjutant General's State Pistol Match, held June 22-24, 2018, at Fort Pickett, Virginia. The event, hosted by the 183rd Regiment, Regional Training Institute, had shooters split into 16 teams of four to test their marksmanship skills against some of the best shooters in the state and the nation. On Sunday, the top shooters gathered at the RTI for an awards ceremony that recognized the year's top team and individual competitors.

"We've always described the matches as training disguised as competition," explained Sgt. 1st Class Joel Kliesen, the Virginia National Guard's state marksmanship coordinator. "Hopefully we're going to teach these guys a few new things, let them get a better idea of their capabilities and limitations. Like a lot of things, you don't know what you don't know until someone shows you."

The pistol match is one of two state matches held each year and this year included seven courses of fire that had shooters firing from different positions, reacting to different environments and targets and engaging different targets with different weapon systems. Marksman fired around 14,000 rounds over two days.

Sgt. Alexandra Wilson, assigned to the 183rd RTI, was named first place in the individual aggregate with 697 points; Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Ice, assigned to the 237th Engineer Company, 276th Engineer Battalion, 329th Regional Support Group, placed second with 685 points; and Cpl. William Mikolay, assigned to Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, placed third with 602 points.

The team from the 183rd RTI placed first with 2,473 points; Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, 116th IBCT placed second with 1,989 points; and the 29th Infantry Division team placed third with 1,957 points.

The Excellence in Competition Match requires shooters to start in the standing position at the 30-yard line and engage a total of four targets, moving forward all the way to the 15-yard line in positions of standing, kneeling and prone with time limits ranging



Virginia National Guard Soldiers and Airmen compete in the second day of the 2018 Adjutant General's State Pistol Match June 23, 2018, at Fort Pickett, Virginia.

from 60 to 15 seconds. In this match, Ice took first place, while Spc. Zachary Wilson, assigned to Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, 116th IBCT, placed second and Nikolay placed third.

Among the team matches was the Bianchi Battle Match, designed to test team coordination, endurance and marksmanship skills. It is a multi-phase event that requires shooters to knock down targets with both the pistol and the shotgun at unknown distances.

The 183rd RTI team took first place in the Bianchi Battle Match; Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, 116th IBCT took second, and the team from Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, 116th IBCT took third.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2018/06/27/11636/>



Virginia National Guard Soldiers and Airmen receive awards following the annual Adjutant General's State Pistol Match June 24, 2018, at Fort Pickett, Virginia.

MORE ON THE WEB

Virginia Guard hosts NGB GIS training course

<http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2018/06/27/11624/>

203rd RED HORSE builds school in El Salvador

<https://go.usa.gov/xUCB3>

Military volunteers, local charities work together

<https://go.usa.gov/xUCB4>

Parrott assumes command of 276th Engineers

<http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2018/06/14/11587/>

Photos: 116th IBCT Soldiers conduct annual training

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/collections/72157696774629201/>



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